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**Taxable Retail Sales Decline 12.8 Percent During First Quarter 2009**

**Olympia, Wash., July 15, 2009** — Taxable retail sales declined 12.8 percent to \$23.2 billion during the first quarter of 2009 compared to the first quarter of 2008, the Department of Revenue reported today.

Retail trade, a component of all taxable retail sales that includes retailers but excludes sales tax from other industries such as services and construction, dropped 11.9 percent to \$10.0 billion.

Among the largest industries, retail sales from construction dropped 20.4 percent to \$4.3 billion; motor vehicle and parts dropped 23.3 percent to \$2.1 billion; accommodations and food services dropped 5.1 percent to \$2.4 billion; general merchandise stores declined 0.9 percent to \$1.5 billion, the retail component of wholesale trade declined 18.3 percent to \$1.8 billion, miscellaneous retailers dropped 12.2 percent to \$1.3 billion, information services dropped 0.7 percent to \$1.2 billion, and building materials, garden equipment and supplies dropped 21.2 percent to \$851 million.

**Results for the most populous counties:**

	Taxable retail sales	% change	Retail trade	% change
King	\$9.2 billion	-15.3%	\$3.5 billion	-14.4%
Pierce	\$2.5 billion	-11.6%	\$1.2 billion	-11.9%
Snohomish	\$2.2 billion	-14.6%	\$1.1 billion	-12.6%
Spokane	\$1.5 billion	-7.7%	\$755 million	-7.6%
Clark	\$921 million	-15.6%	\$403 million	-12.0%

**Results for cities with the most sales:**

	Taxable retail sales	% change	Retail trade	% change
Seattle	\$3.6 billion	-11.2%	\$1.1 billion	-12.0%
Bellevue	\$1.2 billion	-13.5%	\$498 million	-14.2%
Tacoma	\$935 million	-11.3%	\$428 million	-12.9%
Spokane	\$840 million	-3.4%	\$405 million	-2.0%
Vancouver	\$548 million	-13.7%	\$228 million	-14.0%

Taxable retail sales and retail trade by county and city, and a breakdown of sales statewide by industries are available at <http://dor.wa.gov/Content/AboutUs/newsroom/html/TRS-RTL-QT12009.htm>.

Results for all counties and selected cities, including breakdowns of sales by industry sector, are available at <http://dor.wa.gov/Content/AboutUs/StatisticsAndReports/2009/qbr109/default.aspx>.

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